

VIRTUAL STARS

Contact

DON LEVY

Sony Pictures Imageworks
9050 West Washington Boulevard
Culver City, California 90232
USA

Don_Levy@spe.sony.com

Think of the greatest performances of our time. They are all products of fertile imaginations and great collaborative efforts of many talented individuals. But are their persistent effects “real” or ephemeral? Some of the most enduring characters, the most unforgettable, most indelible performances, live not in real life but in our emotional connections to them

In this Special Session on visual effects, artists from Sony Pictures Imageworks and Rhythm & Hues Studios draw from their repertoire of characters and productions to explore the creative and technical process of bringing characters to life. Their ability to create dynamic digital characters, imbue them with personality and photo-realistic characteristics, and thoroughly and seamlessly integrate them into live-action stories dramatically expands the filmmaker's boundaries. Actors are no longer constrained by the physical limitations of their being. Gravity, strength, and logistics can be defied. Animals can speak. Villains can be unspeakable.

“Stuart Little,” “Babe,” “Hollow Man,” “The Flintstones,” and the upcoming productions of “Spider-Man,” “Cats & Dogs,” “Harry Potter and the Sorcerers Stone,” and “Stuart Little 2,” display increasingly advanced examples of how digital artists transform the fabric of filmmaking.

Success in creating these performances is a combination of art and science. Mastery comes in the blend of style and technique. In this session, participants explore digital characters through story and character development, art and design, animation and digital production, and technology.

Sony Pictures Imageworks is an award-winning, state-of-the-art visual effects and animation company dedicated to the art and artistry of digital production. It has grown from a small team of artists and producers to a thriving company of over 380 full-time employees in a state-of-the-art facility. It has received three Academy Award (nominations for “Starship Troopers,” “Stuart Little,” and “Hollow Man”) and countless industry merits and awards. Its work has been a major part of numerous features including: “Contact,” “Starship Troopers,” “Anaconda,” “Godzilla,” “Patch Adams,” “Stuart Little,” “What Lies Beneath,” “Hollow Man,” “Cast Away,” and “Charlie's Angels.” Current projects include “Harry Potter and the Sorcerers Stone,” “Spider-Man,” and “Stuart Little 2.”

Founded in 1987, Rhythm & Hues Studios is a leading producer of character animation and visual effects for the entertainment industry. In 1995, Rhythm & Hues was honored with the Academy Award for Best Visual Effects for its work on “Babe.” Work from the Rhythm & Hues Feature Film Division can be seen in a wide variety of recent films including “Along Came a Spider,” “Bedazzled,” “How the Grinch Stole Christmas,” “Little Nicky,” “The 6th Day,” “Red Planet,” and “Rugrats in Paris.” Currently, Rhythm & Hues is in production on “Cats&Dogs,” “Dr. Dolittle 2,” and “The Sum of All Fears.”